

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: FONMIN SPOKESMAN RESPONDS TO 'CLARIFICATION'

REF: ANKARA 1980

1. SUMMARY: IN MARCH 16 PRESS THE STRAIN IN US-TURKISH
RELATIONS TAKES SECOND PLACE TO THE ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON.
MOST STORIES HIGHLIGHT 'REPLY' OF FONMIN SPOKESMAN TO
CLARIFICATION MADE BY STATE DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 13. RELATED
COVERAGE INCLUDES: REPORTS THAT USG WILL ANNOUNCE ITS SUPPORT
FOR THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) WITHIN TEN DAYS,
A STORY ON THE BACKGROUND OF ECEVIT'S ANGRY OUTBURST, A
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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK TIMES COMMENT ON ECEVIT'S REACTION,
AND AN AP STORY THAT THE GOT IS SEEKIN SUPPORT FROM THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY FOR PASSAGE OF THE DCA. END
SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WHEN ASKED MARCH 15 FOR A
REACTION TO THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S CLARIFICATION OF

MARCH 13, FOMIN SPOKESMAN HASAN UNER RESPONDED, APPARENTLY WITHOUT PREPARED GUIDANCE, "THE WORDS OF SECRETARY VANCE WERE VERY CLEAR. IT IS NOT OUR IMPRESSION THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS SUBJECT." THIS 'REPLY' DOMINATES MARCH 16 REPORTING OF THE STRAIN IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS. IN A FRONT PAGE STORY, PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET ALS REPORTS THAT UNIDENTIFIED MFA OFFICIALS ARE SAYING THE VANCE REMARKS CLEARLY ESTABLISH THAT A 'LINK' WAS MADE WHICH LEAVES NO ROOM FOR MIDUNDERSTANDING. THESE MFA OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY ARE ALSO CONFIRMING THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE CONTROVERSY GENERATED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S REMARKS, THE GOT IS REVIEWING US-TURKISH RELATIONS IN DETAIL. TURKEY IS WAITING FOR THE BEGINNING OF HEARINGS IN APRIL AND THE EMERGENCE OF A FIRM DECISION ON MAY 15; AND IF THERE IS NO CHANGE BY THEN, TURKEY WILL BE COMPELLED TO ADOPT A NEW ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, THEY ALLEGEDLY WARN.

3. REPORTS IN BOTH MILLIYET AND CUMHURIYET INDICTATE THAT SOURCES IN ANKARA ARE SAYING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE CLEAR ITS SUPPORT FOR THE DCA SOON. THE MILLIYET ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL COINCIDE WITH THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE DCA (MARCH 25), WHILE THE CUMHURIYET VERSION REPORTS 'FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS' SAY THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE BETWEEN MARCH 20 AND 27.

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4. THE MARCH 16 MILLIYET ALSO CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE BY NILUFER YALCIN (WHO NORMALLY HAS EXCELLENT ACCESS TO HIGH LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS), ON THE REASONS FOR ECEVIT'S OUTBURST. FOREMOST AMONG THE 'REASONS' WAS THE TIMING OF VANCEJS REMARKS. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO HIS MESSAGE TO VANCE OF THE PREVIOUS DAY, MARCH 8, IN WHICH HE ASKED FOR A STATMENT OF US POLICY BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMIT. ECEVIT AND THE GOT ALSO HAD THEIR PIQUE AND SUSPICION AROUSED BY A SERIES OF EVENTS, INCLUDING: --THE 'DELAY' IN RESPONDING TO THE ZABLOCKI LETTER; --THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE HEARINGS ON THE DCA HAD ONCE AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED; AND --FEAR THAT THE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO FIND WAYS TO AVOID MAKING A CLEAR STATEMENT OF SUPPOR FOR THE DCA AND ACQUIESCE IN CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL DELAYS.

5. IN A STORY FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, SAYNUR GOREN, MILLIYET REPORTS ON A NEW YORK TIMES ITEM WHICH INDICATES THAT THE AIM OF THE ECEVIT OUTBURST IS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO BACK THE DCA OPENLY AND SPEED ITS PASSAGE. IN THIS REGARD, THE TIMES ITEM ALLEGEDLY SAYS THAT ECEVIT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE

SATISFIED WHEN HE LEARNS THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARING
WILL PROBABLY NOT COMMENCE UNTIL APRIL 6.

6. CUMHURIYET STATES THAT A DISCUSSION IS TAKING PLACE
WITHIN THE GOT ABOUT THE TIMING FOR SUBMISSION OF CYPRUS
PROPOSALS TO UNSYG KURT WALDHEIM. ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET,
SOME GOT OFFICIALS ARE ARGUING THAT THE CYPRUS PROPOSALS
SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED TO THE UNSYG UNTIL AFTER CONGRESS
TAKES ACTION, BUT NO FIRM DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE.

7. MILLIYET, CUMHURIYET, AND CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN CARRY
AN AP REPORT FROM BRUSSELS IN THEIR MARCH 16 EDITIONS WHICH
SAYS THAT THE GOT HAS APPLIED TO THE EEC FOR ASSISTANCE IN
SPEEDING ACTION ON THE DCA BY CONGRESS. THE TURKISH
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REQUEST IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT
OF DENMARK IN ITS CAPACITY AS EC PRESIDENT, AND FURTHERMORE,
IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH SYMPATHY, ALTHOUGH THE EC-9
REPORTEDLY HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED HOW THEY CAN INFLUENCE
CONGRESS.
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